Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 7-8, with the following paragraph:

In accordance with another preferred embodiment of the present invention, the coding precision decreases with the distance from the beginning of the name. When a name is subjected to the present invention-replacing step a specific character string results as an intermediate product, later to be called 'output name'. Each character is now subjected to a conversion into a respective bit string. As the alphabet is a sequence of 26 letters a code length of $\log_2 26 = 5$ bits are sufficient to code a character in an unambiguous way. However, it is proposed to code only the first letter with a resolution this high since it usually represents the most important sound of a name. For example, if an output name consists of 8 characters, instead of coding each character with the same precision, i.e., the quantity of bits, the first character of the name is coded with 5 bits, the second character is coded with 4 bits, the third character and the fourth are again coded with 4 bits and the rest of the characters, i.e., characters 5 to 8, are coded with 3 bits. Thus, the first character is defined uniquely, the three following characters are defined quite well as $2^4 = 16$ different characters can be represented by 4 bits whereas the remaining characters in the exemplary name are coded with a decreased degree of coding precision. The coding can therefore be described as progressively lossy.